

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computer comprising:
2 a chassis having a front panel, a first side panel, a second side panel, and a rear panel all
3 mounted on a base and forming a rectangular enclosure;
4 a system board attached to said chassis, said chassis having a receiving zone for a threaded
5 fastener;
6 at least one thumb screw assembly comprising a threaded screw with a groove and a
7 gripping accessory with a grip for matingly engaging the screw in said groove;
8 wherein said thumb screw assembly is received in said receiving zone.
- 1 2. The computer of claim 1 further including a spring engagingly surrounding said screw.
- 1 3. The computer of claim 1 wherein said thumb screw assembly is height-adjustable.
- 1 4. The computer of claim 1 wherein said thumb screw assembly can be engaged and
2 disengaged without any tools.
- 1 5. A thumb screw assembly capable of securing components to a chassis comprising:
2 a screw comprising:
3 a threaded portion;
4 a shank portion; and
5 a head portion;

6 wherein a first groove extends along said shank portion and a second groove
7 intersects the first groove under said head portion; and

8 a gripping accessory comprising:

9 an outer gripping surface;

10 a retaining socket; and

11 a hub;

12 wherein a grip is positioned inside said hub for matingly engaging the grooves of
13 said screw.

1 6. The thumb screw assembly of claim 5 further including a spring engagingly surrounding
2 the shank portion of said screw.

1 7. The thumb screw assembly of claim 5 wherein the height of said thumb screw assembly is
2 adjustable.

1 8. The thumb screw assembly of claim 5 wherein said thumb screw assembly can be engaged
2 and disengaged without any tools.

1 9. A fastener comprising:
2 a shank having a groove formed longitudinal therein and a retaining notch; and
3 a gripping accessory which is disposed radially about said shank and can be moved
4 longitudinally along at least a portion of said shank, said gripping accessory can be used to turn
5 said shank by engaging said gripping accessory in said notch.

1 10. The fastener of claim 9 further including a spring engagingly surrounding the shank.

1 11. The fastener of claim 9 wherein said fastener can be engaged and disengaged without any
2 tools.

1 12. The fastener of claim 9 wherein the gripping accessory includes a grip, the grip engaging
2 said notch.

1 13. A method for securing a first component to a second component with a fastener having a
2 gripping accessory and a shank, the method comprising:

- 3 (a) placing the first component adjacent to the second component;
- 4 (b) pulling the gripping accessory so that it extends to an extended position;
- 5 (c) rotating the gripping accessory until it engages the shank;
- 6 (d) turning the gripping accessory to secure the components; and
- 7 (e) releasing the gripping accessory so that it retracts from the extended position.

1 14. A computer comprising:

2 a chassis having a front panel, a first side panel, a second side panel, and a rear panel all
3 mounted on a base and forming a rectangular enclosure;

4 a system board attached to said chassis;

5 a component; and

6 a means for engaging and disengaging said component to said chassis;

7 wherein said means comprises a shank having a groove formed longitudinal therein and a
8 retaining notch and a gripping accessory which is disposed radially about said shank and can be
9 moved longitudinally along at least a portion of said shank, said gripping accessory can be used to
10 turn said shank by engaging said gripping accessory in said notch.

1 15. The computer of claim 14 further including a spring engagingly surrounding the shank.

1 16. The computer of claim 14 wherein said fastener can be engaged and disengaged without
2 any tools.

1 17. The computer of claim 14 wherein the gripping accessory includes a grip, the grip engaging
2 said notch.